



# Holy Assumption Monastery Newsletter – July 2012

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Dear Friends of Holy Assumption Monastery,

Those of you who have been following our “Zoo Updates” will be pleased to hear that the baby and toddler koi are doing extremely well. The toddlers are beginning to appear regularly with the grown ups and teenagers at feeding time – and even get some of the food! Both the toddlers and the babies are far bigger than they were when we put them in the pond. The babies in particular have more than doubled in size already! We had been wondering if their long sojourn in the cramped quarters of the fish shed had stunted them forever. So, this was welcome news indeed.

Their growth after such a long period of stuntedness made us reflect on one aspect of the danger of judging others. We are quick to condemn others for their 'stuntedness.' “You'd think after all these years, he'd know better!” “How can anybody be that blind?!” Yet, unlike the situation with our fish, we seldom can see all the things that are constraining somebody's growth. If we were in those same conditions, perhaps we'd do even worse. On the other hand, a change in the person's situation may cause them to grow out of all recognition. Among our saints are many like this. Two notable examples are St. Mary of Egypt who went from a dissolute life to burning purity and St. Moses the Black who went from being a robber captain to being a saint who willingly died at the hands of violent men. Had we known them in their early years, would we have even considered the possibility that they would become great saints?

So, we would do well to look at the things that are stunting our spiritual growth and do our utmost (as did St. Mary and St. Moses) to remove them. And let's stop judging others. Who knows? The fish who is stunted now may grow up to be the biggest fish in the pond!

with love in Christ,

*Mother Melania  
and the community  
of Holy Assumption Monastery*

## ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE RENOVATION UPDATE

Work has begun! Architect and contractor Michael Wysocki is busily constructing a new tool shed by the main house patio, so that the "fish shed" can be emptied and renovated for use as a temporary office and eventual icon-mounting workshop. Meanwhile, the building committee has priced the roof for St. Nicholas House, and expects the cost to come in around \$17,000 for an excellent, long-lasting and well-insulated roof.



*Petie holds court on  
St. Nicholas House Porch*



*Michael Wysocki with the  
beginnings of our new tool shed*

We are planning several fundraisers (please see the enclosed flyer for the first of these). So please stay tuned for announcements. As always, donations via Paypal on our website, or through checks mailed to the monastery with the memo "St. Nicholas House", are much appreciated. We need to raise the roof funds by October, so that the new roof is in place before the winter rains begin.

## JUNE FRIENDS MEETING

On June 10, Robin Wellman, state park interpreter at Fort Ross and chair of the Fort Ross bicentennial committee, gave us a wonderful Friends' presentation. The Fort was founded in 1812 by the Russian-American Company to provide food for their Alaskan colonies and also to hunt sea otters. The largest population by far was Alaskan men, who had been brought there for their expertise in hunting the sea otter. Besides the Alaskans and Russians, there were also other Europeans, the local indigenous population (the Kashaya) and people of mixed ancestry. Despite occasional problems, this multicultural community got along very well.

Many history books focus on the fact that the Russian presence on Spanish land was uninvited and on the tensions caused by this. However, the Fort Ross community had good relations with the local Spanish and brought welcome goods for trading. Due to over-hunting of the sea otter and the opening up of more reliable food sources for their Alaskan colonies, they were there less than thirty years. But they did a lot of trading in that short time and it was beneficial to all concerned. They also were responsible for some of the earliest ethnography and botanical studies of California and had the first windmill, shipyard, and brickyard.

An interesting piece of information was that the Fort Ross chapel (of which our own chapel is a replica) was requested and paid for by the residents. In relation to this, Robin spoke of how the Church guarded the welfare of the native Alaskan peoples. The first Russians in the Alaskan fur trade were individual adventurers, who treated the native peoples like slaves. When the Russian-American Company formed and came under the flag of Russia, however, the Church stepped in to ensure that the native peoples be treated as Russian subjects and not as slaves. So, the generally good conditions at Fort Ross were a direct result of the good work of the Church.

Thank you, Robin, for an enlightening look into an important and intriguing aspect of our history!



*Attentive listeners*



*Holding a shell that was used as a mortar*



*Robin and volunteers demonstrate the complexities of trade*



*Brave hunter!*



## ART-FULL YOUNGSTERS

We had the blessing of hosting a local summer art class over a few days early in the month. Their teacher Sharie arranged for us to show them our chapel and to explain a little about iconography. The day before that meeting, she brought them by to see the koi so that they could paint them. Of course, they fell in love with the koi and successfully entreated Sharie to bring them back several more times to feed the koi. They were both polite and enthusiastic, and we greatly enjoyed their visits.



*Learning about the icons*



*Quality time with the koi!*



*Pulgita gets some quality time, too!*



*Portraits of our koi by up-and-coming young artists*

## July 2012 Schedule for Holy Assumption Monastery & St. Simeon Church

Monastery contact info – (707) 942-6244; email – [sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com);

website – <http://www.holyassumptionmonastery.com>

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>9:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy (at St<br>Simeon Church)  | <b>2</b>                                    | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b><br>5:00pm Vigil<br>(at Monastery)  | <b>5</b><br>8:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy<br>(at Monastery)<br><br><u>Ven. Athanasios of<br/>           Athos &amp; St. Sergius<br/>           of Radonezh</u>                              | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br>9:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy (at St<br>Simeon Church)<br><br><u>Nativity of St John<br/>           the Baptist<br/>           (Old Calendar)<br/>           Slavonic</u><br><br>5:00pm Vigil<br>(at Monastery) |
| <b>8</b><br>9:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy<br>(at Monastery)<br><br>4:00 pm<br>FRIENDS MEETING                               | <b>9</b>                                    | <b>10</b><br>5:00pm Vigil<br>(at Monastery)  | <b>11</b><br>8:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy<br>(at Monastery)<br><br><u>Gr. Mtyr<br/>           Euphemia &amp; St.<br/>           Olga</u> | <b>12</b><br>10:00am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy (at St Peter<br>and Paul Church in<br>Santa Rosa)<br><br><u>St Peter and Paul<br/>           (Old Calendar)<br/>           Church Feast Day</u> | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br><br>5:00pm Vigil<br>(at St Simeon<br>Church)   |
| <b>15</b><br>9:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy (at St<br>Simeon Church)   | <b>16</b><br>5:00pm Vigil (at<br>Monastery) | <b>17</b><br>8:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy<br>(at Monastery)<br><br><u>Royal<br/>           Passionbearers<br/>           &amp; Gr. Mtyr Marina</u>      | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br>10:00am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy (at St<br>Seraphim of Sarov<br>Church in Santa<br>Rosa)<br><br><u>St Seraphim of<br/>           Sarov</u>                                       | <b>20</b><br>3:30 pm Vigil at<br>Vladimir Icon<br>Church,<br>(Guerneville) | <b>21</b><br>9am Liturgy at<br>Vladimir Icon<br>Church<br>(Guerneville)<br>Church Feast<br><br>5:00pm Vigil<br>(at Monastery)   |
| <b>22</b><br>9:40am<br>Hours/Divine Liturgy<br>(at Monastery)<br><br><u>Fathers of the 6<br/>           Ecumenical Councils</u> | <b>23</b><br>5:00pm Vigil (at<br>Monastery) | <b>24</b><br>8:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy<br>(at Monastery –<br>visiting clergy)<br><br><u>Mtyr Christina &amp;<br/>           Ss. Boris &amp; Gleb</u> | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br>5:00pm Reader's<br>Vigil<br>(at Monastery)   |
| <b>29</b><br>9:40am<br>Hours/Divine<br>Liturgy (at St<br>Simeon Church)   | <b>30</b>                                   | <b>31</b>  | <b>Notes:</b>   |   |  |   |

*Announcing*  
**THE JULY 2012 MEETING**  
*of the*  
**FRIENDS OF HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY**

**Sunday July 8, 2012**

**HUNDREDS TURN TO  
CHRIST IN TARKANA –  
Kenyan Catechism**

Presented by

**Roberta Sardell**

*Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Team Member*



4:00 PM – Presentation

5:00 PM – Vespers

6:00 PM – Potluck

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**August 15 (Wednesday) - Dormition** – please join us for our altar feast!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (707) 942-6244  
or EMAIL [sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:sisters.holyassumptionmonastery@gmail.com)

Monastery Fundraiser for  
St. Nicholas  
House Roof



# ICE CREAM SOCIAL

All are welcome!



Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>  
12 Noon to 4 pm

at Holy Assumption Monastery  
1519 Washington Street • Calistoga • 707-942-4658